

16 July 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interim Upgrade of SAFE Services

STAT From its very inception, project SAFE was premised upon being able to replace a large complex of computer programs loosely tied together and made available to a modest number of analysts (up to 50) on a test basis. Indeed, the usefulness of these services to a small group of DDI analysts formed much of the rationale for the development of project SAFE. It was recognized from the very beginning that this group of services (which came to be known as Interim SAFE) could not be easily integrated nor grown into a system that would be useful for the  analysts it would have to serve.

The Interim SAFE services are supported primarily on a single IBM mainframe, with much of the supporting work being run on the ODP MVS complex. We have closely monitored the use of the service so as to try to make it responsive to the small number of users. The service has become crucial to the success of the DDI in getting its job done.

With the slippage in the schedule for implementation of project SAFE that was announced in the fall of 1981 it was clear that the Interim SAFE service would have to continue in operation far longer than anyone had ever envisioned. This fact, when coupled with the mounting pressure on ODP to improve its reliability has left us in an impossible situation in which the product we are committed to deliver (Project SAFE) is desperately needed but woefully behind schedule. While the services presently available (Interim SAFE) support only a handful of DDI analysts. To make matters worse, our past policy on the Interim Services has been to do as little as is necessary to keep them alive since they would be replaced by a modern SAFE system.

To further compound the problem from the point of view of the end user, the chain of events that have been set in motion to redirect the effort of the SAFE project as a result of the report of the Audit Team has introduced even more delay in the schedule.

As a means of providing some relief to the user community, who we are now asking to continue to be patient with us while we set about the task of restructuring our entire approach to the development of project SAFE, we propose to acquire three IBM

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computer systems as an interim upgrade so that the present services know as Interim SAFE (including Pilot Mail) can be expanded to handle 350-400 simultaneous users. We would replace the present computer on which are resident the online programs of the Interim Service with a new and more powerful machine, the second computer would provide a similar set of services for the DIA analysts, while the third machine would handle the related batch processing load presently fragmented across several processors in the main CIA Computer Center, and also act as a backup machine for the two online processors. This will provide the necessary relief to the user community that is absolutely essential if we are to retain any credibility in moving forward on a new and redirected SAFE effort.

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